

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-34 (cancelled).

35 (currently amended). A method of treating a patient for memory loss associated with aging comprising administering to that patient a therapeutically effective amount of at least one of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid, acetoacetate, or a metabolic precursor or physiologically acceptable salt of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid or acetoacetate, such as to elevate the patient's blood levels of ketone bodies, defined as the sum total of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid and acetoacetate, to a therapeutic level effective to treat the disorder, wherein the patient's blood level is elevated to from 0.3mM to 20mM and, wherein the metabolic precursor is ~~not a hydroxybutyryl-carnitine~~ selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) medium chain length triglycerides,
- (ii) oligomers of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid,
- (iii) esters of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid or its oligomers with monohydric, dihydric or trihydric alcohols or with acetoacetate,
- (iv) esters of acetoacetate with monohydric, dihydric or trihydric alcohols,

wherein the monohydric, dihydric or trihydric alcohols in (iii) and (iv) are selected from the group C1-C4 alkyl alcohols, (R)-1,3-butandiol and glycerol.

36 (canceled).

37 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 35 wherein the metabolic precursor is a medium chain length triglyceride.

38 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 35 wherein the memory loss associated with ageing is caused by Alzheimer's disease or an inability to metabolise glucose.

39 (canceled).